

The Honorable Gordon H. Smith
President and CEO



July 12, 2011

The Honorable John Dingell
United States House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
United States House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Dingell and Green:

I am writing to thank you for your efforts to preserve the ability of all Americans to continue to receive a robust, free, over-the-air television signal as reflected in Section 303 of H.R. 2482, the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act.

America's broadcasters work hand-in-hand with our nation's first responders in times of emergencies. We fully understand and support efforts to address our first responders' need for state-of-the-art communications. We also recognize the need for a national communications policy that includes robust broadband service. However, it is vitally important that when setting that policy, Congress protects the interests of hundreds of millions of television viewers and the services that free local TV stations provide.

Broadcasters appreciate that H.R. 2482 seeks to preserve the availability of over-the-air signals both to viewers and cable system operators. Your bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to replicate existing service areas, viewership and interference levels so that viewers will continue to have access to the television stations they've always watched if the FCC has to reassign stations to new channels.

We also appreciate the certainty that H.R. 2482 will provide to television broadcasters by ensuring reimbursement of any costs that a broadcaster may incur due to the reassignment of a station to a different channel, or to mitigate any adverse impact as a result of another station's move.

H.R. 2482 also would enable broadcasters to continue to innovate by preventing the FCC from involuntarily moving television stations from the UHF band to a band that will not support new and innovative services like free, mobile digital television (DTV). As you know, mobile DTV will greatly benefit consumers and allow broadcasters additional opportunities to serve our viewers.

Finally, your legislation provides certainty to television broadcasters and those investing in broadcast stations by prohibiting more than one incentive auction for licenses to utilize frequencies that are now used for broadcast television. This will remove uncertainty from an industry that has been in transition in recent years due to the DTV transition and other technological advancements.

Again, thank you for your efforts to protect viewers and the local television stations that provide the services on which they rely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon H. Smith".

Gordon H. Smith

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